GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1310
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
REFILLING OF DITCHES
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the provision made for refilling of ditches after the excavation of coal from open coal mines in South Eastern Coalfields Limited and HCL coal mines;

(b) The organisation assigned with this job;

(c) The percentage of the excavated areas refilled in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh by SECL;

(d) the organisation which decides the priority of community development work;

(e) whether there is a provision of inviting opinions of people`s representatives in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COAL AND MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARATI)

(a): In South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) the voids (ditches) created after excavation of coal are filled by the overburden (waste material) removed for extraction of coal. Adequate equipments are provided for refilling work along with fund on revenue account. There are no coal mines being operated by HCL.

(b): The project level authorities are the main implementing authority.

(c): The percentage of excavated area refilled by SECLin Chhattisgarh is about 36% and in Madhya Pradesh is45%. The major opencast mines in Chhattisgarh have not yet touched the floor of the mineable coal seam. Hence, percentage of refilled area is less.

(d) to (f): Welfare Boards of the subsidiary companies comprising union and management representatives discuss and finalize the priorities of community development works to be undertaken. In some subsidiaries the officials of district administration and local MLAs / MPs-are also associated while finalizing such activities.